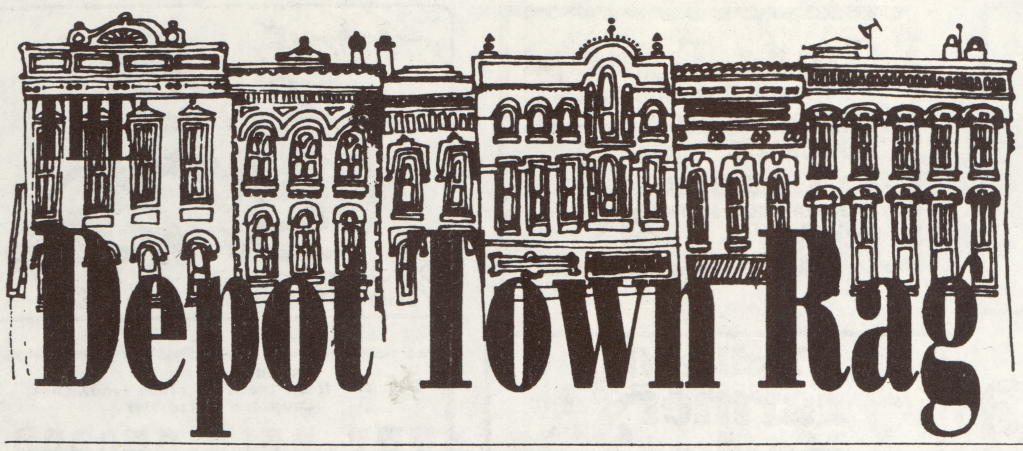


Depot Town Rag

FREE 100% RAG CONTENT

2/1985

FEBRUARY 1985 MEETINGS

Foundation - February 21 - 8:00
Assoiciation - February 28 - 7:30
...all in the Caboose

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. **The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197**

RECYCLERS AT CITY BODY

The Ypsilanti Recycling Project will soon be back in business – in the large fenced-in yard and shed behind Depot Town's City Body Shop.

When the City knocked down the steel building as part of the Frog Island rehabilitation project, the Recyclers were put out of business. They were getting low on volunteers, too, and the combination served to shut down the operation completely for a few months.

What to do with all those papers, cans and bottles piling up at home? Recyclers Rex Bleeker, Bob Fox and Kyle Achatz and others cased the Depot's baggage house, but staunch preservationists still held the dream of a fancy restaurant in that location. They also looked at the original Domino Pizza stand up the hill. When they talked to City Body's Don Smith about his filling station, he suggested his back lot and shed at a price they couldn't afford to refuse: free.

Even with that generous offer, the Recyclers don't plan to be at the new location forever. Their long range plan is to inhabit the former Farm Bureau complex on Forest Avenue. Meanwhile, welcome them back to the old neighborhood with your recyclable goods.

NOTICE TO BUSINESSES:

The April Rag will carry the TENTH ANNIVERSARY advertising directory as a special supplement. Extra Copies will be available to all businesses. As announced in the January edition and in a subsequent flyer, all copy for this absolutely free promotion was due January 17.

Most of the material we have received includes fifty-word maximum copy, logo types, art and a few lines about how long in Depot Town. If you have not yet responded, call Tom Dodd at once (482-6371) to see if you can still have your business included.

CANDY LADY IN MISS MICHIGAN CONTEST

Today a candy store, tomorrow the world. Katy Lefferts, owner and operator of THE CANDY SHOP in Heritage Square (under the long blue awning) is to be a contestant in the 1985 Miss Michigan Pageant. With her good looks, talent and the support of her neighbors, Depot Town could soon be in the national news again, this time as the home of the new Miss America!

Kathy is the daughter of Rosemary Lawson (Grand Trunk, Ltd.), but with these credentials and her incredible good looks, nobody's calling her "Rosemary's Baby" any longer. Good luck, Kathy. Depot Town is proud of you.

WHICH WAY FOR THE FREIGHT HOUSE?

Probably the hottest contention in the upcoming election for Depot Towners is: which direction should be taken in the continuation of the City-owned Freight House in Depot Town? We've asked the contestants for the Fifth Ward Council seat to set forth their views here.

SOME BACKGROUND: Built over 100 years ago, the 180 foot-long building stored goods bound to and from Ypsilanti's businesses and industries. Chalked graffitti still proclaims storage areas for many of the City's earliest entrepreneurs.

With the post-WWII decline of rail traffic, the railroad rented it to various local companies for storage. Tyner Furniture was the most recent tenant until City Manager Steve Shutt and then Council member Peter Murdock convinced the railroad to sell it to the City.

With the advice of an MSU marketing study, the City began to develop an outdoor Farmers' Market space, moving the nearly defunct downtown operation to the "Market Plaza", forming a Market Advisory Board and hiring a part-time market manager.

After two successful outdoor seasons, the City had made the final purchase of the building and the necessary improvements to the interior (bathrooms, heat, lights, steps and a ramp) and began its first indoor, year-round Wednesday and Saturday market operation.

Depot Town neighbors saw this enormous space as Ypsilanti's version of Cobo Hall and began to rent it from the City for such events as the Children's Halloween Party, wedding receptions, plays, Holiday Artists' Markets, concerts, a gambling casino, and is now in its 4th season of monthly winter jazz concerts in partnership with WEMU. In short, the facility has been a boon to the restoration of the spirit of the neighborhood.

In 1982 the Historic Depot Town Foundation criticised the City for letting the Market dwindle and the (then) City Manager retaliated by asking the Foundation to make an offer to run it themselves. They followed that advice but were spurned by City Council. During the next budget review, however, Council took the criticism to heart and made the Market manager a full-time position with added emphasis on promoting the facility.

With that directive, Gary Urick, now the Market Manager, has been pumping the necessary creativity into the entire operation. The Market has never been so vital: more producers mean more consumers and more consumers mean more Michigan food products in a city with fewer food stores every decade. An average of 1500 people visit the Market each week. Other Market promotions have included the annual Builder's Show, the monthly crafts shows, garage sales, food and nutrition demonstrations, traveling exhibits of community interest, the Fall Farm Fair, and monthly antique auctions.

(Candidates' comments continued on Page 5)

Pints
Quarts
Half Gallons
Gallons

Miller's
ICE CREAM

Malts
Shakes
Sodas
Cones
Sundaes

42 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, Michigan
485-7546
"Have Ice Cream the old fashioned way."
Sit down to the creamiest
ice cream around served
in a real glass dish.

Grand Trunk Ltd.
Formerly Rosemary's
NEEDLE ARTS and HANDCRAFTS
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MICH. 48197
(313) 485-4994
Corner

Aubrey's
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan

SIDETRACK
GOOD FOOD GOOD DRINKS GOOD TIMES
Located in historic Depot Town
56 E. CROSS • YPSILANTI
483-1035

Ypsilanti's
Farmers' Market
Stop By!
Weds & Sat 8 - 2
in historic Depot Town
★ QUALITY POULTRY, MEATS, PRODUCE
★ COMMUNITY CRAFT DAYS ★ EXHIBITS
★ EVERY WED: SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS
Valentines Show Feb. 9

Eat in or carry out
Delicious fresh made to order sandwiches
Soup and Salad Bar
THE DELI SHOPPE
Delicatessen and Catering
In Historic Depot Town
17 East Cross St
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197
483-3574
Catering by Bette Beck
Specializing in Wedding Receptions

Vintage Passion
Specializing in Unusual & Different
COSTUME JEWELRY
Featuring fabulous rhinestones
Vintage Clothing
"You've got to see it to believe it!"
32 East Cross
Historic Depot Town

CITY RADIATOR
110 N. River
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
483-2248

DEPOT EXCHANGE
ANTIQUES
54 E. Cross St. (near tracks)
Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Mich 48197
WE BUY, SELL & TRADE
482-1780
Furniture Stripping
Mention RAG ad & get 10% Discount

RIVER ARTWORKS
CUSTOM FRAMING
DESIGNER MATS
482-8785
• PROFESSIONALS WITH ALL GRAPHICS NEEDLECRAFT
FRAMING OF OBJECTS
ARCHIVAL FRAMING
• GALLERY OF ORIGINAL ART
• RENTAL DARKROOM
• RENTAL WORKROOM
48 E. CROSS
DEPOT TOWN

Old Town
RESTAURANT
Home Cooked
Breakfast • Lunch
& Dinner
HISTORIC DEPOT DOWN

PRONTO
PIZZA & SUBS
37 E. CROSS • DEPOT TOWN
YPSILANTI
483-4555
SUN-THU 4-12
FRI & SAT 4-2
Free Delivery
on orders over $4.00
COUPON
NEW! NEW!
WHEN ORDERING, ASK FOR:
PRONTO PRONTO
2 for 1
ANY SIZE PIZZA
Round or Square
Pick-up or Delivery/One coupon per order

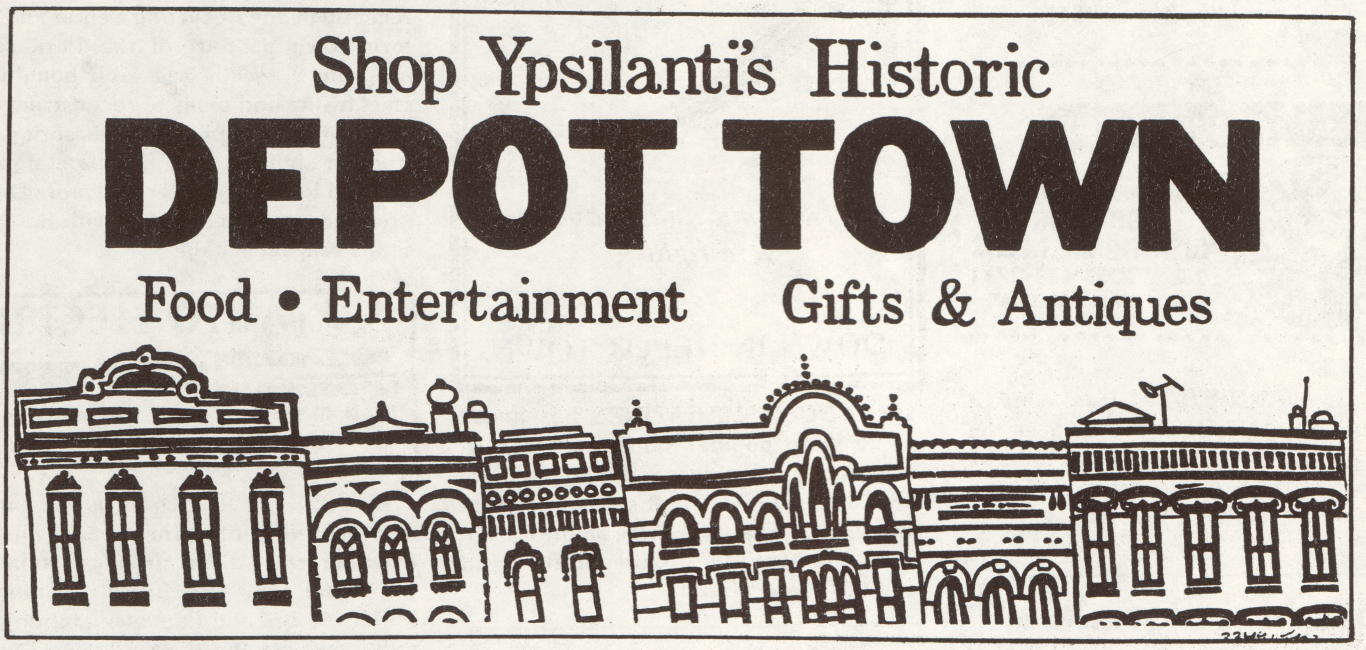
IKE'S
DEPOT
TOWN
BARBER
SHOP
40
E. CROSS
YPSILANTI
483-6300

482-0489
23 E. Cross
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Now and Then
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
Buy — Sell — Trade
IN HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

bd
B & D RETAIL PLUMBING
and HEATING, INC.
Richard C. Laflin
310 N. River - 487-1510
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Hon's
Flowers & Fancies
46 E. CROSS • 482-2124
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

HERE'S THE BILLBOARD AT W. MICHIGAN AND W. AINSWORTH. SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ITS FEBRUARY LOCATION.



AN EXCHANGE OF WITS

When we first came to the neighborhood, many local ads still listed the telephone exchanges. Wilbur Heating, B & D Plumbing and City Body Shop kept the HUnter phone numbers in their ads long after Ma Bell stopped printing them in the phone books. It was an anachronistic custom that served to make the neighborhood look old, even before the creation of the Historic District.

It was old fashioned. In those days, an HU number might have stood for HUmble, HUmbug, HUmdinger, HUmorous, or HUndreds of years old. But today, it's all numbers. With direct dialing around the world, Jack Benny's old joke isn't so funny any more.

We've always been impressed with many romantic English addresses which include no numbers at all: Derek Hyde, Rose Cottage, Rexfordshire, Surrey, England. Look how many of us include "Depot Town" however unofficial, in our printed materials.

Such nostalgia causes us to wonder if we might re-institute the telephone exchange letters in our old, quaint style of commercialism ? Don't all of our numbers still begin with 48 ? According to the dial, that's GHI (4) and TUV (8).

Could our new telephone exchange be "GUtsy" ? We once had a neighborhood drug dealer who could have used IV - ----! HT - ---- once meant Hard Times, but today's same exchange could be GT- ---- for Good Times. How about IT- ---- : IT's the place to be.

Too bad we couldn't get DT- ----, like most local pick-up truck licenses. Darn Tootin', Dynamic Tension, Delightful Turnaround and, of course: Depot Town.

So, why not put HUnter back into our ads, even if Ma Bell won't list them ?

B & D Plumbing	HU7-1510
Big Bob's ,Magazines	HU5-4930
City Radiator	HU3-2248
Depot Exchange	HU2-1780
Deli Shoppe, The	HU3-3574
Grand Trunk, Ltd.	HU5-4994
Health Emporium, The	HU5-2711
Hon's Flowers	HU2-2124
Ike's Barbershop	HU3-6300
Jas MacDonald Antiques	HU1-0555
Miller's Ice Cream	HU5-7546
Now and Then Antiques	HU2-0489
River Art Works	HU2-8785
Sidetrack	HU3-1035
Standard Printing	HU3-0339
Ted's Auto Elecric	HU3-1238
Ypsi Food Co-op	HU3-1520

GILDA RADNER AT THE OLD TOWN?

Well, not exactly, but since the Phyllis Diller story has become such a part of the "local lore" (unproveable history, but lots of fun to talk about), the time has come to tell the whole story about TV comedienne, Gilda Radners', association with John and Shirley Kornilakis of the Old Town Restaurant.

John and Shirley don't get a lot of opportunity to watch "prime time" TV with thier family business thriving downstairs, but not long ago the set was on, it was Saturday night, and Shirley called John over to look at that funny woman on the screen.

"Don't we know her? I think she used to wait tables for us years ago."

"Sure," says John. "That was when we ran the pizza shop in Ann Arbor, across from the fraternity house. She was a great waitress, a real sweet and gentle person, and she talked loud and could walk like a chicken. I think her name was Gilda - something." "Yes" says Shirley, "That's Gilda Radner. She's big time now. Look John, that's her, right there on Saturday Night Live! Wow."

"Too bad," says John. "We could use the help. She was a real good waitress." (ed: Watch out, Wanda, Opal, Ruby et al. There could be a talent scout at your table.)

DTA 10th ANNIVERSARY DINNER – APRIL 21

D.T.A. 17 JANUARY

President McKeever called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Caboose. Minutes were read and approved. Treasurer's report showed $6175.08 with $2956.52 in the General Fund, $742.33 in Special Events, $88.98 in the Rag account and $2387.25 in Jazz.

BILLBOARDS will go up in January. Rex Richie gained approval for two kinds of contracts: individual and group. The $350.00 a month cost will be met by block merchants in three categories: $50.00, $20.00 and $10.00 a month. First month's location will be on West Michigan Avenue, then on Packard, then on Ann Arbor's Main Street. Other locations will be negotiated at that time.

JAZZ: Winter Series opens this week and is nearly sold out. Muhammed Ali may show for the opening and we must watch for security problems. 6:30 dinner, expanded program, stage goes up Friday night. Food service contract was made with Ken Kirch.

RAG REPORT: Thanks to our loyal advertisers, 1984 ads are paid up and well into the new year. Bonni Rosen-Fine turned over more than $700.00 to the treasurer. Thirteen businesses are paid ahead into the March issue with space available for more local support. The editor previewed the February issue, including a reply to the Ann Arbor News and announced a possible steamboat excursion as a Rag fund-raiser this spring.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL: Richie, McKeever and Dodd continue to serve on the Festival planning committee. The Wallendas will return this August. Sandy Knight is general chair. Washtenaw Council for the Arts has pledged $2000.00 in grant funds for operation of the Festival Stage in conjunction with John Delcamp. Free DTA events will include the Toy and Train Show, a Steam and Gas Engine show, films, the Heritage Jazz Competition and the Quilt Show (WHICH NEEDS A CHAIR), as well as the Beer Tent and the Great Train Race.

BROCHURE: Price quotations are not ready yet.

LETTER NEEDED to confirm Standard Printing's donations for last year's tax purposes.

FARMERS' MARKET ADVISORY: Paul Fetters reported new sinks, linoleum, and electrical installations. Cheese, meat, lamb and beef are to be added soon. What about fish? Everybody had an opinion.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY of D.T.A. will be a dinner on a Sunday in April at Aubree's Upstairs with past presidents and Michigan Speaker of the House Gary Owen as special guest speaker. Press, politicos, music and early organizers will make up the program.

SIDEWALK COMPETITION: The first snowfall saw the South Side of Cross Street clean first, with Aubree's finishing theirs at noon. The January 16 contest continues, with four walks (2 north, 2 south) still unshoveled.

BEST YET AWARDS: To Hailey and Samantha, our youngest Depot Towners.

NEW INVOLVEMENTS: The Chess Club and the Ypsilanti Kiwanis both now hold their weekly meetings at the Old Town Restaurant.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Depot Town Rag

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.

Gary McKeever, president

(DTA: The caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)

Annual dues:

Associate member $10
Regular member $25
Sustaining member $100

We mourn the loss of WAYNE SPRAGADA, who passed away suddenly in mid-January. Wayne was a recent Depot Town activist who spent many hours polling merchants about their needs and desires. He was proofreader for THE RAG and brought a fresh outlook and a unique point of view to DTA meetings. He will be sadly missed on this block.

DEPOT TOWN AND WEMU EASTERN MICH. UNIVERSITY

YPSILANTI MICHIGAN

Present

THE
KEMAU KENYATTA QUINTET
PLUS
THE
LITTLE SONNY BLUES BAND
WITH SPECIAL GUEST JOE L.

SATURDAY
FEB. 16TH AT 8 P.M.
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30

IN THE FARMERS' MARKET BUILDING - YPSILANTI - E. CROSS & N. RIVER ST.

*NEW! ADDED ATTRACTION ... DINNER AND COCKTAIL MUSIC STARTS AT 7 P.M.

ANN ARBOR'S PREMIER BLUES AND BOOGIE PIANIST MR. B WILL BE TINKLING THE IVORIES AT 7 P.M. COME EARLY

• TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE IN ANN ARBOR AT:
• *SCHOOLKIDS' RECORDS*
• *P.J.'s RECORDS* • *LITTLE PROFESSOR BOOK STORE*

SINGLE TICKETS PRICED AT... **$7** EACH

• AVAILABLE IN YPSILANTI AT:
• *HUCKLEBERRY PARTY STORE*
• *TOM'S PARTY STORE*
• *MOST DEPOT TOWN BUSINESSES*

487-2229 INFORMATION

SOUND BY THIRD EAR PRODUCTIONS • 761-7184 (313)

WHICH WAY FOR THE FREIGHT HOUSE?

Of course' as the Market's success grows, it demands more permanent installations: more bathroom facilities, coolers, sinks, furnaces, meat cases, refrigerators, etc., and all this limits the spatial flexibility of the building. What may have looked like a lumpy roller rink a few years ago could look like the aisles of Krogers' before long. (Already, the Fire Marshall is limiting the capacity, which raises ticket prices for jazz concerts.)

So, there's our election issue: Which way for the Freight House? A Community Center or a Market Place – or is there a way for them to be compatible? City Manager Matt Hennessey says, "I do feel that somewhere in the near future a decision will need to be made as to our ultimate goal for that facility. As the market continues to grow and offer more and better products to the consumer, there may come a time when use of the building for special events will not be feasible."

We've invited the candidates for Fifth Ward Council member to tell us how they would work to make that policy.

SIOUX SHELTON, owner of Breakaway Travel, a downtown business, chair of the CBC (Central Business Community), a recent Democrat, co-chair of last year's DTA/CBC gambling casino, seen as a dynamic and driving leader in the Ypsilanti business community, faces many of the same problems we have seen in the rebirth of Depot Town.

"Is it possible to have a Farmers; Market and still have the opportunity to use the facility for community events? City Council must address that question in the immediate future.

The installation of permanent structures discounts the use for activities other than the Market. Like many from the community, I enjoy the Market, especially during the warm months. January 9, 1985, 15 persons visited the Market; on January 12, just over 150. January 19, over 550 persons from southeast Michigan attended the first of the Winter Jazz series. Is our City in the business of promoting private business and possibly in the future discouraging events to take place in the Freight House?

Efforts are being made by many volunteers and by City government to encourage private business in Ypsilanti. But is it fair to a seafood Market in Ypsilanti that remains open 6 days a week, pays taxes to our city, occupies a building that was once an eyesore, supports local businesses, but has to compete with a two-day-a-week operation? ....an operation that does not pay taxes, is provided the fixtures they need and pays only nominal fee of $100.00 a month for rent? Wouldn't we prefer this business to locate permanently in Depot Town or in the Downtown area?

Are we productive in the efforts of promoting the growth of the Market with such permanancy?

Let the Market grow, but do not allow its growth to interfere with our activities in the Freight House that attract thousands from inside and outside our community. Let's use the Freight House to premote our City and let's get the most out of the Freight House."

JERRY BUBENHOFER, Democratic incumbent, elected to Council in 1983, East Side resident, union steward at Ypsilanti's Motor Wheel Corporation, characterized as the blue-collar voice on City Council and known for his low-key and thoughtful presentations at Council meeting is another regular Depot Town participant.

"Many interested people already know my views on the subject under discussion. I have spoken publicly to the issue at a City Council meeting and at a Depot Town Association meeting. My thanks to "The Rag" for the opportunity to spread the word on the Farmers' Market/Freight House question.

I believe that the best result possible for our community is to retain the special events capabality of the facility and continue the Farmers' Market as well. The importance of the Freight House as a community center should not be measured in dollars of income from special events as opposed to the potential rents from and expanded Farmers' Market.

The Farmers' Market is a service to the community and an opportunity to area farmers. In my opinion, further expansion with permanent fixtures or equipment would lessen the available space and could destroy the ambiance of this old treasure of a building. We don't want the Farmers' Market competing directly with the Giant Flea Market or the Ypsilanti Seafood Market as some recent expansionist ideas would encourage.

Future expansion is no longer an administrative decision but should only come if a policy decision of the City Council directs such growth. I have made my position clear to the City Manager and the rest of Council in a public meeting that I believe that, especially when it comes to our Farmers' Market, bigger is not necessarily better."

THE NEWS WOULDN'T PRINT IT, SO HERE GOES DAVID WITH HIS SLING SHOT:

To the Editor - The Ann Arbor News:

FLAKES VS. FAKES ?

In her recent piece about Ypsilanti politics, Bonnie de Simone characterizes us folks down in Depot Town as "Flaky." If having both a sense of neighborhood and a sense of humor constitutes "flaky," then we'll buy it.

Such an attitude must, indeed, be surprising and foreign to much of your reportorial staff. Bill Treml's not exactly a lot of laughs and Peggy Page and Christopher Potter are downright surly. Susan Oppat was in Ypsilanti just long enough to jolly up a bit when you pulled her back to your somber halls and replaced her with the serious-to-morbid Bonnie Dismal. But another year with us and we'll start looking for flaky smiles from her kisser, too.

Since he's been running the Ypsi(lanti) Bureau, John Barton has been getting positively positive, himself. I'll bet that worries your humorless Ann Arbor editors. Just about the only smiling (flaky) countenances The News can boast are Oppat, Barton/Meyers; and Crump. (Connie Crump, of course, lives in a beautifully restored Queen Anne manse at the edge of Depot Town and Barton and his staff work in the elegantly restored Ladies' Library on North Huron Street. What delightful flakes.) Do you think 19th Century architecture has anything to do with "flaky ?"

We knew you guys were in trouble when you kept flashing those pictures of me wearing my (flaky) antique fur coat. What is it about that coat that you think is front page news ? Were you getting tired of lead items about new office space going up ? Maybe this is the beginning of a "flakes vs. fakes" controversy ?

Perhaps, in the interest of better mental health, you'd like to trade staff with us for a month or two ? Send your crustiest curmudgeons over to The Rag to laugh, giggle and cajole – and we'll send some of our "flakes" to The News to sober up a little. (You'll enjoy our form book. We encourage the use of hyphens, italics, parentheses and misplaced quotation marks. Anything for a laugh.) But for a month ? Well, maybe just a couple of days. This could get serious.

As they say in the song: "When plastic living's got you down, Come down to our side of town." A little of Depot Town's brand of "flakiness; wouldn't hurt you stuffy Ann Arborites a bit.

Tom Dodd, Editor - The Depot Town Rag

T.H.E. MARKET (The Health Emporium) announces healthy daughter/granddaughter: Hailey Marie Packer, 7lb.,½ oz., born to Marsha and Bob Packer on November 21st, 1984.

THE
HEALTH EMPORIUM

"To your good health"
FOR YOUR
NUTRITIONAL NEEDS
19 E. CROSS 485-2711
DEPOT TOWN YPSILANTI

APPLE ANNIE'S / JAS. MACDONALD'S ANTIQUES announces the arrial of Samantha Jillian Talbot, 6lb. 11 oz., born to Lynn (Apple Annie) and Rick Talbot on December 28, 1984.

Jim MacDonald's
Antiques
Apple Annie's
Vintage Clothing
29 East Cross • 481-0555
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 Sunday 12-4

AND EVERYTHING NICE looks forward to outfitting all the block's newborns and is back to its regular hours after January inventories and vacations.

and everything nice

RECYCLED CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
HANDCRAFTED TOYS & GIFTS
27 EAST CROSS

The new back doors at HANSEN'S STANDARD PRINTING are finished and look like they came right out of Tom Edison's Menlo Park Laboratory at Greenfield Village. Tim Heiss was their designer and Brian Sovia their carpenter. It's a masterful accomplishment.

PRINTING PRINTING PRINTING